



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 171

February Session, 2014

Substitute Senate Bill No. 212

Senate, March 27, 2014

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through SEN. LEONE of the 27th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL
SPECIALTY TASK FORCE.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 7-294d of the 2014 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

4 (b) No person may be employed as a police officer by any law
5 enforcement unit for a period exceeding one year unless such person
6 has been certified under the provisions of subsection (a) of this section
7 or has been granted an extension by the council. No person may serve
8 as a police officer during any period when such person's certification
9 has been cancelled or revoked pursuant to the provisions of subsection
10 (c) of this section. In addition to the requirements of this subsection,
11 the council may establish other qualifications for the employment of
12 police officers and require evidence of fulfillment of these
13 qualifications. The certification of any police officer who is not

14 employed by a law enforcement unit for a period of time in excess of
15 two years, unless such officer is on leave of absence, shall be
16 considered lapsed. Upon reemployment as a police officer, such officer
17 shall apply for recertification in a manner provided by the council. The
18 council shall certify any applicant who presents evidence of
19 satisfactory completion of a program or course of instruction in
20 another state or as part of training during service in the armed forces,
21 as defined in section 27-103, that is equivalent in content and quality to
22 that required in this state, provided such applicant passes an
23 examination or evaluation as required by the council.

24 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 14-36 of the 2014 supplement to the
25 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
26 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

27 (e) (1) No motor vehicle operator's license shall be issued until (A)
28 the applicant signs and files with the commissioner an application
29 under oath, or made subject to penalties for false statement in
30 accordance with section 53a-157b, and (B) the commissioner is satisfied
31 that the applicant is sixteen years of age or older and is a suitable
32 person to receive the license.

33 (2) An applicant for a new motor vehicle operator's license shall, in
34 the discretion of the commissioner, file, with the application, a copy of
35 such applicant's birth certificate or other prima facie evidence of date
36 of birth and evidence of identity.

37 (3) Before granting a license to any applicant who has not
38 previously held a Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license, or who
39 has not operated a motor vehicle during the preceding two years, the
40 commissioner shall require the applicant to demonstrate personally to
41 the commissioner, a deputy or a motor vehicle inspector or an agent of
42 the commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner directs, that
43 the applicant is a proper person to operate motor vehicles of the class
44 for which such applicant has applied, has sufficient knowledge of the
45 mechanism of the motor vehicles to ensure their safe operation by him
46 or her and has satisfactory knowledge of the laws concerning motor

47 vehicles and the rules of the road. The knowledge test of an applicant
48 for a class D motor vehicle operator's license may be administered in
49 such form as the commissioner deems appropriate, including audio,
50 electronic or written testing. Such knowledge test shall be
51 administered in English, Spanish or any language spoken at home by
52 at least one per cent of the state's population, according to statistics
53 prepared by the United States Census Bureau, based on the most
54 recent decennial census. Each such knowledge test shall include a
55 question concerning highway work zone safety and the responsibilities
56 of an operator of a motor vehicle under section 14-212d. Each such
57 knowledge test shall include not less than one question concerning
58 distracted driving, the use of mobile telephones and electronic devices
59 by motor vehicle operators or the responsibilities of motor vehicle
60 operators under section 14-296aa. If any such applicant has held a
61 license from a state, territory or possession of the United States where
62 a similar examination is required, [or if any such applicant is a person
63 honorably separated from the United States armed forces who applies
64 within two years following the separation and who, prior to the
65 separation, held a military operator's license for motor vehicles of the
66 same class as that for which such applicant has applied,] the
67 commissioner may waive part or all of the examination. If any such
68 applicant is a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, who applies not
69 later than two years after the date of discharge from the military and
70 who, prior to such discharge, held a military operator's license for
71 motor vehicles of the same class as that for which such applicant has
72 applied, the commissioner shall waive all of the examination, except in
73 the case of commercial motor vehicle licenses, the commissioner shall
74 only waive the driving skills test for such veteran who meets the
75 conditions set forth in 40 CFR 383.77. When the commissioner is
76 satisfied as to the ability and competency of any applicant, the
77 commissioner may issue to such applicant a license, either unlimited or
78 containing such limitations as the commissioner deems advisable, and
79 specifying the class of motor vehicles which the licensee is eligible to
80 operate.

81 (4) If any applicant or operator license holder has any health

82 problem which might affect such person's ability to operate a motor
83 vehicle safely, the commissioner may require the applicant or license
84 holder to demonstrate personally or otherwise establish that,
85 notwithstanding such problem, such applicant or license holder is a
86 proper person to operate a motor vehicle, and the commissioner may
87 further require a certificate of such applicant's condition, signed by a
88 medical authority designated by the commissioner, which certificate
89 shall in all cases be treated as confidential by the commissioner. A
90 license, containing such limitation as the commissioner deems
91 advisable, may be issued or renewed in any case, but nothing in this
92 section shall be construed to prevent the commissioner from refusing a
93 license, either limited or unlimited, to any person or suspending a
94 license of a person whom the commissioner determines to be incapable
95 of safely operating a motor vehicle. Consistent with budgetary
96 allotments, each motor vehicle operator's license issued to or renewed
97 by a deaf or hearing impaired person shall, upon the request of such
98 person, indicate such impairment. Such person shall submit a
99 certificate stating such impairment, in such form as the commissioner
100 may require and signed by a licensed health care practitioner.

101 (5) The issuance of a motor vehicle operator's license to any
102 applicant who is the holder of a license issued by another state shall be
103 subject to the provisions of sections 14-111c and 14-111k.

104 Sec. 3. Subsection (e) of section 14-36 of the 2014 supplement to the
105 general statutes, as amended by section 2 of public act 13-89, is
106 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
107 *January 1, 2015*):

108 (e) (1) No motor vehicle operator's license shall be issued until (A)
109 the applicant signs and files with the commissioner an application
110 under oath, or made subject to penalties for false statement in
111 accordance with section 53a-157b, and (B) the commissioner is satisfied
112 that the applicant is sixteen years of age or older and is a suitable
113 person to receive the license.

114 (2) Except any applicant described in section 14-36m, an applicant

115 for a new motor vehicle operator's license shall, in the discretion of the
116 commissioner, file, with the application, a copy of such applicant's
117 birth certificate or other prima facie evidence of date of birth and
118 evidence of identity.

119 (3) Before granting a license to any applicant who has not
120 previously held a Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license, or who
121 has not operated a motor vehicle during the preceding two years, the
122 commissioner shall require the applicant to demonstrate personally to
123 the commissioner, a deputy or a motor vehicle inspector or an agent of
124 the commissioner, in such manner as the commissioner directs, that
125 the applicant is a proper person to operate motor vehicles of the class
126 for which such applicant has applied, has sufficient knowledge of the
127 mechanism of the motor vehicles to ensure their safe operation by him
128 or her and has satisfactory knowledge of the laws concerning motor
129 vehicles and the rules of the road. The knowledge test of an applicant
130 for a class D motor vehicle operator's license may be administered in
131 such form as the commissioner deems appropriate, including audio,
132 electronic or written testing. Such knowledge test shall be
133 administered in English, Spanish or any language spoken at home by
134 at least one per cent of the state's population, according to statistics
135 prepared by the United States Census Bureau, based on the most
136 recent decennial census. If any such applicant has held a license from a
137 state, territory or possession of the United States where a similar
138 examination is required, [or if any such applicant is a person
139 honorably separated from the United States armed forces who applies
140 within two years following the separation and who, prior to the
141 separation, held a military operator's license for motor vehicles of the
142 same class as that for which such applicant has applied,] the
143 commissioner may waive part or all of the examination. If any such
144 applicant is a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, who applies not
145 later than two years after the date of discharge from the military and
146 who, prior to such discharge, held a military operator's license for
147 motor vehicles of the same class as that for which such applicant has
148 applied, the commissioner shall waive all of the examination, except in
149 the case of commercial motor vehicle licenses, the commissioner shall

150 only waive the driving skills test for such veteran who meets the
151 conditions set forth in 40 CFR 383.77. When the commissioner is
152 satisfied as to the ability and competency of any applicant, the
153 commissioner may issue to such applicant a license, either unlimited or
154 containing such limitations as the commissioner deems advisable, and
155 specifying the class of motor vehicles which the licensee is eligible to
156 operate.

157 (4) If any applicant or operator license holder has any health
158 problem which might affect such person's ability to operate a motor
159 vehicle safely, the commissioner may require the applicant or license
160 holder to demonstrate personally or otherwise establish that,
161 notwithstanding such problem, such applicant or license holder is a
162 proper person to operate a motor vehicle, and the commissioner may
163 further require a certificate of such applicant's condition, signed by a
164 medical authority designated by the commissioner, which certificate
165 shall in all cases be treated as confidential by the commissioner. A
166 license, containing such limitation as the commissioner deems
167 advisable, may be issued or renewed in any case, but nothing in this
168 section shall be construed to prevent the commissioner from refusing a
169 license, either limited or unlimited, to any person or suspending a
170 license of a person whom the commissioner determines to be incapable
171 of safely operating a motor vehicle. Consistent with budgetary
172 allotments, each motor vehicle operator's license issued to or renewed
173 by a deaf or hearing impaired person shall, upon the request of such
174 person, indicate such impairment. Such person shall submit a
175 certificate stating such impairment, in such form as the commissioner
176 may require and signed by a licensed health care practitioner.

177 (5) The issuance of a motor vehicle operator's license to any
178 applicant who is the holder of a license issued by another state shall be
179 subject to the provisions of sections 14-111c and 14-111k.

180 Sec. 4. Section 20-333a of the general statutes is repealed and the
181 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

182 (a) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may, upon the

183 payment of the appropriate fee, as provided in section 20-335, grant a
184 license or a card of registration provided for in this chapter, without an
185 examination, to any currently practicing, competent person who holds
186 a similar license or card of registration granted by any other state,
187 licensure jurisdiction within another state, the District of Columbia or
188 any territory or commonwealth of the United States having licensure
189 or registration requirements substantially similar to, or higher than,
190 those of this state, if the licensing authority in such other state,
191 licensure jurisdiction within another state, the District of Columbia or
192 any territory or commonwealth of the United States may grant such
193 similar license or card of registration, without an examination, to any
194 currently practicing, competent licensee or registrant from this state.

195 (b) (1) The commissioner, in consultation with the appropriate
196 examining board, shall grant a license or a card of registration
197 provided for in this chapter, without an examination, to any person
198 who, within two years of such person's discharge from the armed
199 forces, as defined in section 27-103, presents (A) evidence of
200 satisfactory completion of a program or course of instruction as part of
201 military training that is equivalent in content and quality to that
202 required in this state, and (B) such person's military discharge
203 document or a certified copy thereof. For the purposes of this
204 subsection, "military discharge document" has the same meaning as
205 provided in section 1-219.

206 (2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to change the
207 delegation of authority by the commissioner to the relevant examining
208 boards pursuant to this chapter. In issuing a license or a card of
209 registration, each such board shall provide credit for satisfactory
210 completion of a program or course of instruction as part of military
211 training that is equivalent in content and quality to that required in
212 this state as described in this subsection.

213 (3) Any application fee, as provided in section 20-333, and any
214 initial license fee, as provided in section 20-335, shall be waived for
215 persons qualifying for a license or card of registration under this

216 subsection.

217 (c) The commissioner, with the advice and consent of the
218 appropriate examining board, may adopt regulations in accordance
219 with the provisions of chapter 54 in order to carry out the provisions of
220 this section.

221 Sec. 5. Section 29-161q of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes
222 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
223 *October 1, 2014*):

224 (a) Any security service or business may employ as many security
225 officers as such security service or business deems necessary for the
226 conduct of the business, provided such security officers are of good
227 moral character and at least eighteen years of age.

228 (b) No person hired or otherwise engaged to perform work as a
229 security officer, as defined in section 29-152u, shall perform the duties
230 of a security officer prior to being licensed as a security officer by the
231 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Each
232 applicant for a license shall complete a minimum of eight hours
233 training in the following areas: Basic first aid, search and seizure laws
234 and regulations, use of force, basic criminal justice and public safety
235 issues. The commissioner shall waive such training for any person
236 who, within two years of such person's discharge from the armed
237 forces, as defined in section 27-103, presents proof that such person has
238 completed military training that is equivalent to the training required
239 by this subsection, and such person's military discharge document or a
240 certified copy thereof. For the purposes of this subsection, "military
241 discharge document" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-
242 219. The training shall be approved by the commissioner in accordance
243 with regulations adopted pursuant to section 29-161x.

244 (1) On and after October 1, 2008, no person or employee of an
245 association, corporation or partnership shall conduct such training
246 without the approval of the commissioner except as provided in
247 subdivision (2) of this subsection. Application for such approval shall

248 be submitted on forms prescribed by the commissioner and
249 accompanied by a fee of forty dollars. Such application shall be made
250 under oath and shall contain the applicant's name, address, date and
251 place of birth, employment for the previous five years, education or
252 training in the subjects required to be taught under this subsection, any
253 convictions for violations of the law and such other information as the
254 commissioner may require by regulation adopted pursuant to section
255 29-161x to properly investigate the character, competency and integrity
256 of the applicant. No person shall be approved as an instructor for such
257 training who has been convicted of a felony, a sexual offense or a crime
258 of moral turpitude or who has been denied approval as a security
259 service licensee, a security officer or instructor in the security industry
260 by any licensing authority, or whose approval has been revoked or
261 suspended. The term for such approval shall not exceed two years. Not
262 later than two business days after a change of address, any person
263 approved as an instructor in accordance with this section shall notify
264 the commissioner of such change and such notification shall include
265 both the old and new addresses.

266 (2) If a security officer training course described in this subsection is
267 approved by the commissioner on or before September 30, 2008, the
268 instructor of such course shall have until April 1, 2009, to apply for
269 approval as an instructor in accordance with subdivision (1) of this
270 subsection.

271 (3) Each person approved as an instructor in accordance with this
272 section may apply for the renewal of such approval on a form
273 approved by the commissioner, accompanied by a fee of forty dollars.
274 Such form may require the disclosure of any information necessary for
275 the commissioner to determine whether the instructor's suitability to
276 serve as an instructor has changed since the issuance of the prior
277 approval. The term of such renewed approval shall not exceed two
278 years.

279 (c) Not later than two years after successful completion of the
280 training required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, or the

281 waiver of such training, the applicant may submit an application for a
282 license as a security officer on forms furnished by the commissioner
283 and, under oath, shall give the applicant's name, address, date and
284 place of birth, employment for the previous five years, experience in
285 the position applied for, including military training and weapons
286 qualifications, any convictions for violations of the law and such other
287 information as the commissioner may require, by regulation, to
288 properly investigate the character, competency and integrity of the
289 applicant. Applicants shall submit with their application two sets of
290 fingerprints of the employee and the Commissioner of Emergency
291 Services and Public Protection shall require any applicant for a license
292 under this section to submit to state and national criminal history
293 records checks conducted in accordance with section 29-17a.
294 Applicants shall submit with their application two sets of their
295 fingerprints and two full-face photographs of them, two inches wide
296 by two inches high, taken not earlier than six months prior to the date
297 of application, and a one-hundred-dollar licensing fee, made payable
298 to the state. Applicants who received a waiver as provided in
299 subsection (b) of this section shall be exempt from payment of such
300 licensing fee. Subject to the provisions of section 46a-80, no person
301 shall be approved for a license who has been convicted of a felony, any
302 sexual offense or any crime involving moral turpitude, or who has
303 been refused a license under the provisions of sections 29-161g to 29-
304 161x, inclusive, for any reason except minimum experience, or whose
305 license, having been granted, has been revoked or is under suspension.
306 Upon being satisfied of the suitability of the applicant for licensure, the
307 commissioner may license the applicant as a security officer. Such
308 license shall be renewed every five years for a one-hundred-dollar fee.

309 (d) Upon the security officer's successful completion of training and
310 licensing by the commissioner, or immediately upon hiring a licensed
311 security officer, the security service employing such security officer
312 shall apply to register such security officer with the commissioner on
313 forms provided by the commissioner. Such application shall be
314 accompanied by payment of a forty-dollar application fee payable to
315 the state. The Division of State Police within the Department of

316 Emergency Services and Public Protection shall keep on file the
317 completed registration form and all related material. An identification
318 card with the name, date of birth, address, full-face photograph,
319 physical descriptors and signature of the applicant shall be issued to
320 the security officer, and shall be carried by the security officer at all
321 times while performing the duties associated with the security officer's
322 employment. Registered security officers, in the course of performing
323 their duties, shall present such card for inspection upon the request of
324 a law enforcement officer.

325 (e) The security service shall notify the commissioner not later than
326 five days after the termination of employment of any registered
327 employee.

328 (f) Any fee or portion of a fee paid pursuant to this section shall not
329 be refundable.

330 (g) No person, firm or corporation shall employ or otherwise engage
331 any person as a security officer, as defined in section 29-152u, unless
332 such person is a licensed security officer.

333 (h) Any person, firm or corporation that violates any provision of
334 subsection (b), (d), (e) or (g) of this section shall be fined seventy-five
335 dollars for each offense. Each distinct violation of this section shall be a
336 separate offense and, in the case of a continuing violation, each day
337 thereof shall be deemed a separate offense.

338 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) An institution of higher
339 education shall award college credit for military occupational specialty
340 training to a veteran who enrolls at such institution and has experience
341 in a military occupation recognized by such institution as substituting
342 for or meeting the requirements of a particular course of study. For the
343 purposes of this section, "veteran" means a person who is (1) a veteran,
344 as defined in section 27-103 of the general statutes, or (2) eligible to
345 receive services from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
346 pursuant to Title 38 of the United States Code.

347 (b) Not later than July 1, 2016, the Board of Regents for Higher
348 Education and the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut,
349 in consultation with the institutions of higher education in the state,
350 shall develop and adopt guidelines on awarding academic credit for a
351 student's military training, coursework and education. Such guidelines
352 shall include course equivalency recommendations adopted by the
353 American Council on Education and by other institutions or
354 organizations deemed reputable by the Board of Regents for Higher
355 Education and the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut.
356 Until the adoption of such guidelines, any institution of higher
357 education that awards college credit for such training, coursework and
358 education shall use course equivalency recommendations adopted by
359 the American Council on Education when assigning college credit to a
360 military occupation. Upon adoption of such guidelines, the governing
361 body of each institution of higher education in the state shall develop
362 and implement policies governing the awarding of college credit for a
363 student's military training, coursework and education.

364 Sec. 7. Section 31-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the
365 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

366 (a) The Labor Commissioner shall collect information upon the
367 subject of labor, its relation to capital, the hours of labor, the earnings
368 of laboring men and women and the means of promoting their
369 material, social, intellectual and moral prosperity, and shall have
370 power to summon and examine under oath such witnesses, and may
371 direct the production of, and examine or cause to be produced and
372 examined, such books, records, vouchers, memoranda, documents,
373 letters, contracts or other papers in relation thereto as he deems
374 necessary, and shall have the same powers in relation thereto as are
375 vested in magistrates in taking depositions, but for this purpose
376 persons shall not be required to leave the vicinity of their residences or
377 places of business. Said commissioner shall collect and collate
378 population and employment data to project who is working, who is
379 not working and who will be entering the job market and shall provide
380 an analysis of data concerning present job requirements and potential

381 needs of new industry. The commissioner shall include in his annual
382 report to the Governor, as provided in section 4-60, all the aforesaid
383 statistical details.

384 (b) The commissioner shall administer the coordination of all
385 employment and training programs in the state and shall implement
386 the plan of the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission as
387 approved by the Governor. The commissioner shall develop and
388 maintain a comprehensive inventory of all employment and training
389 programs in the state, including a listing of all funding sources for each
390 program, the characteristics of the persons served, a description of
391 each program and its results and the identification of areas of program
392 overlap and duplication.

393 (c) The commissioner shall provide staff to the Connecticut
394 Employment and Training Commission and such other resources as
395 the commissioner can make available.

396 (d) The commissioner may request the Attorney General to bring an
397 action in Superior Court for injunctive relief requiring compliance with
398 any statute, regulation, order or permit administered, adopted or
399 issued by the commissioner.

400 (e) The commissioner shall ensure (1) that state agencies recognize
401 and accept military training and experience whenever a veteran
402 applies for a professional or occupational license, and (2) that spouses
403 of veterans and spouses of active-duty members of the armed forces
404 are provided with temporary two-year occupational licenses, including
405 temporary certifications for teachers, upon a showing that such person
406 is qualified for such occupation. For the purposes of this subsection,
407 "armed forces" has the same meaning as set forth in section 27-103 and
408 "veteran" means a person who is (A) a veteran, as defined in section
409 27-103, or (B) eligible to receive services from the United States
410 Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to Title 38 of the United
411 States Code.

412 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this

413 section, "licensing authority" means the Department of Consumer
414 Protection, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
415 Labor Department, Department of Motor Vehicles, Board of Regents
416 for Higher Education, Office of Higher Education, Board of Trustees of
417 The University of Connecticut or Police Officer Standards and Training
418 Council, "service member" means a person serving in active military
419 duty with the armed forces or a veteran, "armed forces" has the same
420 meaning as set forth in section 27-103 of the general statutes, and
421 "veteran" means a person who is (1) a veteran, as defined in section 27-
422 103 of the general statutes, or (2) eligible to receive services from the
423 United States Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to Title 38 of
424 the United States Code.

425 (b) On or before January 1, 2015, each licensing authority shall ask
426 each applicant for a license, certificate, registration or educational
427 credit whether such applicant is a service member or the spouse of a
428 service member.

429 (c) On or before January 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, each
430 licensing authority shall submit a report to the Labor Department
431 which shall include the following: (1) The number of service members
432 and their spouses who applied for a license, certificate, registration or
433 educational credit; (2) the number of service members and their
434 spouses whose application for a license, certificate, registration or
435 educational credit was approved; (3) the number of service members
436 and their spouses whose application for a license, certificate,
437 registration or educational credit was denied, and data on the reasons
438 for any such denial; (4) the licensing authority's processing time for
439 applications submitted by service members and their spouses and the
440 average processing time for all applications; (5) information on the
441 licensing authority's efforts to inform and assist service members and
442 their spouses in accessing programs that provide the education and
443 training necessary for meeting the requirements for licensure,
444 certification, registration or educational credit; (6) information on
445 whether existing law effectively addresses the challenges that service
446 members and their spouses face when applying for an occupational or

447 professional license, certificate, registration or educational credit upon
 448 discharge from military service or relocating to the state; and (7)
 449 recommendations on improving the licensing authority's ability to
 450 meet the occupational needs of service members and their spouses,
 451 including, but not limited to, the issuance of temporary or provisional
 452 licenses, certificates or registrations.

453 (d) On or before January 1, 2016, each licensing authority shall
 454 publish on its Internet web site a link dedicated to veterans' issues.
 455 Such link shall include information on how military training and
 456 experience relates to any occupational or professional license,
 457 certificate, registration or educational credit issued by that agency.

458 (e) On or before January 1, 2016, the Labor Department shall post
 459 the reports submitted pursuant to subsection (c) of this section to its
 460 Internet web site.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	7-294d(b)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	14-36(e)
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2015</i>	14-36(e)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	20-333a
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	29-161q
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	31-2
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

For the purposes of clarity, sections 2 and 3 were rephrased; the term "occupational licensing boards" was removed from section 4 for consistency; and the definition of "service member" in section 8 was rephrased for clarity.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Potential Revenue Loss	less than 35,000	less than 35,000
Consumer Protection, Dept.	GF - Revenue Loss	less than 2,000	less than 2,000

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Savings	less than 5,000	less than 5,000

Explanation

Section 1 of the bill results in a potential revenue loss to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) by requiring the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) to certify those individuals who have undergone certain military training. The current tuition for a municipal recruit to attend basic training at POST is \$1,500 and DESPP would realize a revenue loss, anticipated to be less than \$25,000 annually, for each police officer certified under the provisions of this bill without attending POST basic training.

To the extent that an individual is hired by a police department, the department will realize a \$1,500 savings associated with not having to send said recruit through basic training. The municipal savings would be dependent upon the number of qualifying candidates and are not anticipated to exceed \$5,000 per year.

Section 2 requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to

waive the entire examination fee a veteran who has held a military operator's license and is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as it conforms to current practice. Current law allows DMV the discretion to waive a portion or the entire examination fee for veterans who have held a military operator's license. In FY 13 DMV waived 744 examinations fees for veterans.

Section 3 requires DMV to waive the knowledge test for a commercial motor vehicle license (CDL) for a veteran who has held a military CDL and is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as it conforms current practice. In FY 13 DMV waived 9 CDL knowledge tests for veterans.

Section 4 results in a revenue loss of less than \$2,000 to the Department of Consumer Protection by exempting certain license registration fees for veterans with military experience. It is anticipated that fewer than 10 individuals per year would be exempted. Generally the first time application fee is \$90 and the registration fee \$120. Examination fees are paid to third-party vendors therefore waiving such fees has no impact on the state.

Section 5 of the bill requires DESPP to waive both the training requirement for security officer certification for certain individuals with relevant military training as well as the fee for such certification. The current fee for security officer certification is \$100 and DESPP is anticipated to realize a revenue loss of less than \$10,000 under the provisions of this section.

Section 6 results in no fiscal impact to the state as the requirements are already in place under federal policy.

Section 7 requires the Labor Commissioner to ensure that state agencies recognize and accept military training and experience whenever a veteran applies for a professional or occupational license, and that qualified spouses of veterans and active-duty members of the armed forces are provided with temporary occupational licenses. To the extent that the Labor Commissioner has the authority to do so, this

provision is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as the Office of Veterans' Workforce Development within the Department of Labor would be able to accomplish this without additional personnel or outside expertise.

Section 8 results in no fiscal impact as it is anticipated that the agencies identified as "licensing authorities" already meet the requirements or will be able to fulfill the obligations using current resources.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

Sources: *Department of Motor Vehicles*
Veterans' Affairs Committee 2/25/14 Public Hearing Testimony

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 212****AN ACT CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL
SPECIALTY TASK FORCE.****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires various governmental entities to certify, waive, grant, or award certain licenses, registrations, examinations, training, or credit for veterans with military experience or qualifications similar to those otherwise required.

For qualified veterans, the bill requires the:

1. Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) to certify them as police officers;
2. Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to waive certain examinations or tests for motor vehicle operator's licenses;
3. Department of Consumer Protection (DCP), in consultation with the appropriate boards, to grant certain occupational licenses or registrations without examination;
4. Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to waive security guard training; and
5. higher education institutions to award college credit.

The bill waives certain fees for (1) DCP-issued occupational licenses and registrations and (2) security guard licenses.

It also requires, by January 1, 2015, these governmental entities to (1) ask applicants for a license, certificate, registration, or educational

credit whether they or their spouse served or is serving in the military and (2) submit an annual report to the Department of Labor (DOL) on certain data associated with veterans' applications, including the number of applications, approvals, and denials. These reports must be posted on DOL's website by January 1, 2016.

The bill also requires the labor commissioner to ensure that (1) state agencies recognize and accept military training and experience whenever a veteran applies for a professional or occupational license and (2) spouses of veterans and active-duty armed forces members are provided with temporary two-year occupational licenses, including temporary certifications for teachers, if they show that they are qualified for the occupation. She must do this for those who are eligible to receive services from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs. (It is unclear how the DOL commissioner can accomplish these goals because she does not have the authority to grant occupational licenses or certifications.)

Under the bill, unless specifically noted, a veteran is anyone honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions from active service from the armed forces (U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Air Force and any of their reserve components).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014, except for the higher education and labor commissioner provisions, which are effective July 1, 2014 and the reporting provision, which is effective on passage.

POLICE OFFICER

The bill requires POST to certify any applicant who presents evidence of satisfactorily completing a program or course of instruction as part of training during military service that is equivalent in content and quality to state requirements, provided the applicant passes a POST-approved examination or evaluation.

By law, police officers must be POST-certified within one year of employment and by regulation the council's entry-level requirements include personal interviews, fingerprint examination, background

investigation, psychological examination, criminal history record check, controlled substance screen, and physical fitness and medical tests.

MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES

The bill requires the DMV commissioner to waive all, instead of allowing her to waive all or part of, examinations for motor vehicle licenses, except the driving skills test for commercial motor vehicle licenses, for veterans who (1) apply within two years after their military discharge and (2) before military discharge, held a military operator's license to drive the same class of vehicles allowed under their prospective license. By law, when the commissioner is satisfied with the ability and competency of any applicant, she may issue an unlimited license or one with limitations, and specify the motor vehicle class the licensee is eligible to operate.

Commercial Motor Vehicle License

Under the bill, the DMV commissioner can waive the commercial motor vehicle driving skills test only if the veteran meets conditions set by federal regulation. If he or she does, the commissioner can substitute for the driving test, the veteran's driving record in combination with certain driving experience. The veteran must hold a military commercial motor vehicle license when applying for the state license.

Pursuant to federal regulations, DMV must require the veteran to certify that, during the two-year period prior to applying for the commercial motor vehicle license, he or she has not had:

1. more than one license (except for a military license);
2. any license suspended, revoked, or cancelled;
3. any type of motor vehicle conviction that would disqualify an applicant from getting a commercial license (e.g., driving under the influence);

4. more than one conviction for a serious traffic violation (e.g., driving recklessly); and
5. any conviction for violating any military, state, or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control (other than a parking violation) in connection with any traffic accident or any record of an accident where he or she was at fault.

The veteran must also provide evidence and certify that he or she:

1. is or was regularly employed within the last 90 days in a military position that required operating a commercial motor vehicle,
2. was exempted from the commercial motor vehicle license requirements under federal regulation (e.g., active duty military personnel, member of the military reserves, national guard on active duty); and
3. was operating a vehicle for at least two years immediately before military discharge that is representative of the type he or she operates or expects to operate.

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES AND REGISTRATIONS

The bill requires the DCP commissioner, in consultation with the appropriate examining board, to grant a qualified veteran an occupational license or registration card without an examination. The veteran must apply within two years of his or her military discharge and present (1) evidence of satisfactorily completing a military training program or course of instruction equivalent in content and quality to what the state requires and (2) his or her discharge document or a certified copy of it.

The affected occupational licenses include those for electricians; plumbers; solar, heating, piping and cooling contractors and journeymen; elevator and fire protection sprinkler craftsmen; and irrigation contractors and journeymen.

The bill specifies that it does not change the DCP commissioner's

delegation of authority to the relevant examining boards. In issuing a license or registration card, each board must provide credit for satisfactorily completing a program or instruction course as part of military training that is equivalent in content and quality to what the state requires.

SECURITY GUARDS

The bill requires DESPP to waive security guard training for any veteran who (1) presents proof that he or she has completed state-equivalent training in the military and (2) provides his or her discharge document or a certified copy of it. Current law requires each applicant for a security guard license to complete at least eight hours of training in basic first aid, search and seizure laws and regulations, use of force, and basic criminal justice and public safety issues.

Similar to security guards who pass the training, the bill requires a veteran to submit his or her security guard license application within two years after the security guard training waiver. It also expands the information that all applicants must submit to include military training and weapons qualifications.

HIGHER EDUCATION CREDIT

The bill requires higher education institutions to award college credit for military occupational specialty training to veterans enrolled at the institution. The veteran must have experience in a military occupation the institution recognizes as substituting or meeting the requirements of a particular course of study. A veteran also includes anyone eligible to receive services from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs.

Guidelines for Awarding Credit

The bill requires, by July 1, 2016, the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) and the UConn board of trustees, in consultation with higher education institutions in the state, to develop and adopt guidelines on awarding academic credit for a student's military training, coursework, and education. The guidelines must include

course equivalency recommendations adopted by the American Council on Education and other institutions or organizations deemed reputable by BOR and the UConn board.

Until the guidelines are adopted, any higher education institution that awards college credit for such training must use course equivalency recommendations adopted by the American Council on Education when assigning college credit to a military occupation. Upon guideline adoption, the governing body of each higher education institution must develop and implement policies governing the awarding of college credit for a student's military training, course work, and education.

DATA REPORTING

The bill requires, by January 1, 2015, DCP, DESPP, DOL, DMV, BOR, Office of Higher Education, UConn board of trustees, POST (licensing authorities) to ask applicants for a license, certificate, registration, or educational credit whether they or their spouse served or is serving in the military.

By January 1, 2015 and annually thereafter, each licensing authority must submit a report to DOL that includes:

1. the number of (a) service members and their spouses who applied for a license, certificate, registration, or educational credit; (b) approvals; and (c) denials, with data on the reasons;
2. the licensing authority's processing time for applications submitted by service members and their spouses compared to the average processing time for all applications;
3. information on the licensing authority's efforts to inform and assist service members and their spouses in accessing programs that provide the education and training needed for meeting licensure, certification, registration, or educational credit requirements;

4. information on whether existing law effectively addresses the challenges service members and their spouses face when applying for an occupational or professional license, certificate, registration, or educational credit when discharged from the military or relocating to the state; and
5. recommendations for improving the licensing authority's ability to meet the occupational needs of service members and their spouses, including issuing temporary or provisional licenses, certificates, or registrations.

Website

By January 1, 2016, each licensing authority must publish on its Internet website a link dedicated to veterans' issues. The link must include information on how military training and experience relates to any occupational or professional license, certificate, or educational credit issued by that authority.

BACKGROUND***Military Occupational Specialty Task Force***

Special Act 13-5 established the task force to study the use of military occupational specialty training experience to satisfy training requirements for state licensing purposes.

Related Bill

HB 5299, favorably reported by the Veterans Affairs' Committee, has provisions substantially similar to this bill, except it does not include (1) any fee waiver, (2) data reporting requirements, or (3) DOL initiatives involving spouses.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/11/2014)